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AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

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AGAINST ISRAEL IN MELBOURNE

WHICH SIDE OF ITS FACE WILL AUST. SHOW NOW?

— By LOU GAUTIER —

There is every indication that Melbourne fans will see a thriller between Australia and Israel at Olympic Park on Sunday.

The big question, however, is: which side of its face will the Australian team reveal this weekend?

Will the Victorian public be treated to the sparkling football which sent Brisbane fans into raptures, or must it again be the gutsy brand of soccer of last Sunday?

The absence of the Israeli captain, Mordechai Shpigler, now in London to take part in next week's Geoff Hurst testimonial match, suggests Australia may play more enterprising football than in Sydney although the Israelis may improve further.

Last Sunday's torrid 1-0 victory must have boosted the Aussies' morale for the third and final "test".

With a far less impressive performance than in Brisbane, they still won — and winning is what soccer is all about, whatever the "purists" may think.

Without Shpigler's inspiration up front, the visitors will be hard pressed to

make much of an impression on an Australian defence which last Sunday was again superbly marshalled by skipper Peter Wilson.

Steadier goalkeeping is all that Australia requires to keep its slate clean against Israeli forwards, who so far have not impressed with their shooting ability.

Coach Rale Rasic is certain to persevere with the players, who, on the whole, have served him well in the two games to date.

And rightly so, we feel. You don't use international matches against your closest, most dangerous rivals to experiment.

Could you imagine England throwing young, untried players, however promising, into the fire against, say, West Germany or Italy?

For soccer's sake we hope the unpleasantness that marred the closing stages in Brisbane, and almost wrecked the Sydney match in the opening stanza, is not carried over to Olympic Park.

Referee Roger Lamb will have to assert his authority straight from the kick-off.

A tough final battle, or wonderful, skillful entertainment, a la Brisbane?

The answer rests with the referee as much as with the players from both teams.

But irrespective of how this sixth international between Australia and Israel shapes up, Australia should win again.

The likely teams:

Australia: Romanowicz, Harris, Wilson, Micic, Alston, Mackay, Rooney, Baartz, Wojtek, Tolson, Ainslie.

Reserves: Rorke, Nyskohus, Marshall, Campbell, Turner, Butler.

Israel: Visoker, Bar, Bello, Shum, Rosen, Schwager, Gal, Kalderson, Faigenbaum, Shaarabani, Borba.

Reserves: Bejerano, Ninio, Rozendorn, Halifa.

Referee: Roger Lamb (Vic.).



Brilliant Israeli goalkeeper Iszhak Visoker was under tremendous pressure to repulse Max Tolson's challenge in this incident from last Sunday's international at the Sydney Sportsground.

GOAL DIFFERENCE STARTS IN 1972

Goal averages are out, goal differences are in for 1972.

This was one of the progressive decisions taken at last week's NSW annual general meeting.

Falling in line with world trends, NSW will be the first State in Australia to switch to goal difference calculations, if two teams finish on level terms.

The AGM also fixed an 80c admission charge for 1972 to any part of any ground, with no hidden extras.

Pensioners and children will pay 20c at those grounds where Councils charge everybody passing through the gate; elsewhere they are admitted free.

Second Division admission charges will remain the same at 50c.

A move to change the voting system was defeated, thus still depriving Third Division clubs of their franchise.

In principle, the NSW Federation approved that in future they would ask the ASF to import national touring teams, instead of clubs — "whenever possible".

It's a pity that behind this loophole may be tucked away more nondescript touring parties.

Also okayed by the Council was a motion that clubs in future can seek to have their match postponed only if they have given at least two more national team players than their opponents.

YUGAL BACK

Ryde, fighting tooth and nail for belated justice, finally won the day when the Council fully exonerated them from any guilt in the March 1970 Marks Field riot.

As their reward, they have gained permission to once again use the prefix "Yugal" in the club name.

In the election for Executive seats Tom Grimson, Tibor Kalman, Martin Royal and Peter McCann were all re-elected.

Les Bordacs was defeated in the election and was replaced by Karel Rodny.

The AGM could not conclude all its planned business and so had to hold a second session this week, after we went to press.

No brotherly love as Hakoah seek glory

— By PAUL DEAN —

Irked by last Sunday's incident-packed match, Israel is likely to put all they have into their "brotherly" clash with Hakoah tonight (Wednesday).

Let's face it: their hard won reputation, achieved in the heat of Mexico last year, is at stake.

So far in their two matches Israel have shown little of their undoubted ability.

Being between seasons wouldn't help them either.

Hakoah, on the other hand, have been preparing fervently for this clash and should be near their peak.

It's unlikely that the "friendly" nature of the encounter will be too visible.

Still smarting under their pain of having missed out on the Grand Final, Hakoah want to prove that they're Australia's best team.

In fact, they also want to prove that their team is better than Australia's.

Many Hakoah officials and players claimed after Sunday's

match that Hakoah would have beaten Israel with much greater ease than the sweaty 1-0.

Now they have their chance to prove the point.

We are somewhat doubtful whether this will be the case.

WORLD CLASS

Israel have a more than useful team, with at least two world class players, Shum and Shpigler to manipulate them.

They can also create the chances, usually with fine, close interpassing but lack a forceful striker to crack them in.

The Israeli defence stands on no ceremony, as Hakoah will find out.

Neither Rosen nor the deceptively frail Bello will

allow Keddie, Yardley and Baartz to roam freely.

Watkins may be the key to the match. This brilliant fellow is anxious to prove that, for the time being anyway, it's hard to field an Australian team without him.

Hakoah is older than the Australian team was on Sunday and this may go slightly against them.

Also, there won't be a Tolson in their midst to disturb the mental equilibrium of Rosen & Co., — unless Yardley returns to his old role of taking on the mantle of a striker.

Hakoah would dearly love to win, victory against Israel's national team would be the finest feather to their well adorned cap.

On the other hand, Israel cannot afford to lose against a mere club team, without

risking a further devaluation of their international prestige.

Those who go out on Wednesday evening to the Sports Ground should see some splendid football.

However, don't count on a kissing and hugging affair between the antagonists, even if there are strong sentimental ties between the teams.

Each has a sharp axe to grind and will wield it fiercely in the interests of success.

All things being equal — we tend to feel that the end result will be very close to a draw.

Likely teams:

Hakoah: Fuzes, Fekete, Yaeger, Watkins, Marnoch, Gardiner, Muniz, Yardley, Keddie, Baartz, McNamee.

Israel: Visoker, Bar, Bello, Shum, Rosen, Ninio, Gal, Kalderson, Faigenbaum, Shpigler, Borba.

Referee: Roy Pearce.

AUSTRALIA v. ISRAEL 2-2

AUSTRALIA SHOULD HAVE ROMPED HOME

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Australia came from behind twice to draw 2-2 with Israel in the opening match of the Australian tour at Lang Park, Brisbane, last Thursday week.

But for two careless, uncharacteristic mistakes in defence, some hurried shooting and plain bad luck, Australia should have beaten Israel very convincingly.

The Israeli camp readily admitted this and coach Edmond Shmilovich was one-hundred percent right to say after the match that only the result had pleased him.

Apart from the opening 15 minutes, when Australia, as is now the alarming custom, started shakily, and the five minutes that followed Israel's against the run of play second goal, it was all Australia.

I have never seen an Australian national team play better even on last year's triumphant tour.

On the 1970 tour, Australia achieved its triumphs, including the 1-0 win against Israel, through tight defence and the occasional well-mounted breakthrough.

In Brisbane, Australia reached hitherto unscaled heights in technique, improvisation, mobility and incisive, direct forward play.

SPECTACULAR

Although fullbacks Harris and Alston were among the brightest stars of the match, this was the first game I have seen Australia play where the strikers and linkmen outshone the defenders.

As a result, the crowd was treated to Australia's most spectacular-ever attacking display, and how they loved it!

What the Lang Park crowd lacked in quantity, it made up in quality and the national team played to tumultuous cheers and full-throated roars of encouragement.

Only the woodwork and some superb goalkeeping by Iszhak Visoker stood between Australia and the victory they deserved.

Visoker performed heroically between the sticks and saved at least two sure goals while he was saved by the crossbar on one occasion when he appeared well and truly beaten by Vojtek's fierce drive.

For long periods the visitors were all but swam-

ped by the fluent Australian attacks and perfect understanding of our midfield trio.

Australia, as expected, were also much fitter, but for once this was not the only deciding factor — skill also was.

DISADVANTAGE

The Israelis were understandably at a big disadvantage as it was their first competitive match for months and their first on foreign soil a mere 48 hours after a long 5,000 mile trip.

We don't subscribe to the theory that the visitors were unduly rough, or that they wasted time.

They played exactly as we would have had we been in their position, clinging to a draw in the last minutes of an international on foreign soil.



ALAN AINSLIE

Kalderon and especially Bello, however, overdid the rough stuff at times, and were lucky to strike so lenient a referee as Vince Dobinson.

Under the circumstances no wonder the Israelis were delighted with the result — precisely as we would have been had we managed to draw on our last year, say, with Mexico, whose domination at the Azteca, however, wasn't nearly as great as Australia's over Israel in Brisbane.

Israel were only ever really dangerous on dead balls.

Shpigler's cornerkicks and freekicks seemed to mesmerise the Aussie defence, particularly goalie Roger Romanowicz.

Uncertain in the opening stages, mainly because it took Peter Wilson a fair while to find his bearings, the Australian defence tightened considerably in the second half.

It was a tragedy that its only second half blunder, a "joint effort", so to speak, by Wilson and Romanowicz, had to result in the goal that put Israel ahead 2-1.

These were the highlights of the incident-packed match played at breakneck speed throughout:

HIGHLIGHTS

7th minute: Shpigler and Faigenbaum combine in the midfield and send Borba away, but the left winger snoots over the bar.

11th minute: Australia concedes a corner which Shpigler takes. His swerving shot is nudged in by Kalderon, exploiting a gap between Romanowicz and Alston. AUSTRALIA 0 ISRAEL 1.

12th minute: Another Shpigler corner creates danger as Romanowicz drops the high ball.

15 min.: Yet another Israeli corner. Borba slams the ball a good four metres wide of the mark with a first-time volley.

18 min.: Baartz' pass finds the unmarked Tolson who heads straight at Visoker when he had ample time to "pick" his spot.

19 min.: No mistake by Tolson this time. After Rooney's shot had been only partially blocked, Tolson's left-foot drive gave Visoker no chance for a great equaliser. AUSTRALIA 1 ISRAEL 1.

24 min.: Tolson gets to an Ainslie cross too late with the Israeli goal unguarded.

25 min.: Shpigler, the deadball master, forces Romanowicz to palm a 30-metre freekick over the bar for a corner.

30 min.: A great solo run by Rooney down the right flank. When he gets to the corner flag, he sends in a curly inswinger which the startled Visoker can only tip over the bar.

31 min.: Tolson breaks away and heads for goal when referee Dobinson stops play for an imaginary foul which enrages the crowd.

34 min.: Dobinson is booed again when he allows Faigenbaum to proceed after he clearly touched the ball. Luckily for Australia, Mackay's diving tackle dispossesses the Israeli striker only 20 metres from goal.

35 min.: Shpigler spreads confusion in the Aussie defence with another cornerkick, which Romanowicz drops again.

36 min.: A breathtaking mazy solo run by Vojtek, who twists and turns round five defenders before his fierce drive is tipped over the bar by Visoker's reflex save.

37 min.: Another superb save from the overworked Israeli 'keeper — off Rooney this time.

40 min.: The irresistible Vojtek gives half a dozen Israelis the run-around in another dazzling run, but after taking on the entire defence his full-blooded drive crashes on the bar with Visoker beaten all ends up.

SECOND HALF

50 min.: Alston overlaps brilliantly and sends in a powerful shot from 18 metres which Visoker saves acrobatically.

56 min.: Vojtek hits the outside netting after accepting a neat Ainslie cross.

59 min.: Baartz's turn to test the Israeli custodian with a sudden, low shot.

60 min.: The crowd is on its feet as Tolson, Ainslie and Baartz combine deftly before transmitting the ball to Vojtek, who shoots straight at Visoker.

62 min.: Bello, who is being turned inside-out by the diabolical Vojtek, has his name taken for cutting Vojtek down violently. The Croatia star will limp slightly for the rest of the match.

63 min.: Completely against the run of play, right in the midst of total Australian domination Peter Wilson doliies a weak clearance to an Israeli forward, whose not particularly hard shot is only partially saved by Romanowicz. Shpigler, lurking in the penalty box, lobs the ball into the empty goal. AUSTRALIA 1 ISRAEL 2.

72 min.: A speedy breakaway by Alston nets Australia the equaliser. Before anyone can lay a hand on him, "Noddy" has the ball in the Israeli net with a low drive from 18 metres, which was deflected en route. AUSTRALIA 2 ISRAEL 2.

75 min.: Baartz' 20-metre low shot is just wide.

80 min.: Australia have two huge opportunities in less than a minute to win the match, but both are fluffed by Ainslie, who throws away the chance to become a hero in his first international appearance.

A defence-splitting move involving five Aussies finishes on Ainslie who shoots wide only six metres from an empty net. About 45 seconds later Ainslie just has to push the ball over the line, but seems paralysed and Zvi Rosen charges across to clear off his line.

84 min.: Vojtek forces a corner from an Ainslie freekick, takes it himself and his inswinger is headed goalwards by Tolson, but Visoker fists the ball out under considerable pressure.

88 min.: Ainslie's cross finds Micic on the other wing. The classy midfielder dribbles around Bar. The ball goes over the line, but the referee doesn't give Australia a clear-cut corner.

Australia: Romanowicz, Harris, Wilson, Micic, Alston, Rooney, Mackay, Baartz, Vojtek, Tolson, Ainslie.

Israel: Visoker, Bar, Bello, Shum, Rosen, Schwager, Gal (Shaarabani), Kalderon, Faigenbaum, Shpigler, Borba.

Scorers: Tolson 19 min. and Alston 72 min. for Australia; Kalderon 11 min. and Shpigler 63 min. for Israel.

Referee: V. Dobinson (Qld.).

Crowd: 5,000.

Two-match survey

JIMMY MACKAY OUR TOP MAN

ROGER ROMANOWICZ, long an understudy, could have seized his big chance with both hands.

The South Australian, however, never repeated his brilliant training form, was shaky in both Brisbane and Sydney, and inspired little confidence to his defence. If selected this Sunday, it could be his very last chance to earn future national squad selection.

GEORGE HARRIS' international debut was crowned with success. The young St. George-Budapest fullback confirmed his budding class and promise with a cool, classy display which would have done a veteran proud in Brisbane. In Sydney, like most of his teammates, he was less prominent because of the visitors' greater pressure, but he was still among our better players although he had less opportunities to overlap and join in attacking forays.

PETER WILSON had a poor first half in Brisbane and had a hand in Israel's second goal, but Sydney fans saw the real Wilson last Sunday. Apart from saving a certain goal when he pushed Shum's header off the line, his tackling was fierce and he was the master in the air, although the Israelis are no slouches when it comes to heading. Wilson answered those critics who still didn't rate him as our top stopper.

FRANK MICIC justified his surprise selection in Brisbane where he was amongst the best Aussies. Last Thursday he broke up several Israeli attacks with superb tackling and his distribution was first-class. One of the few Australians capable of matching the visitors' ball control he was seen exclusively as a twin-stopper in Sydney where he somewhat lacked pace.

ADRIAN ALSTON still has to prove his credibility as a fullback. In Brisbane it seemed as though he had taken to this unusual position like a duck to water with a great display of overlapping, tackling and distribution, but he had an unhappy match in Sydney when the pressure was on. He gave several bad passes and was often beaten by a simple dribble.

JIM MACKAY was Australia's best performer over the first two matches. In Brisbane his job was to neutralise the feared Shpigler like in Tel-Aviv last year. He succeeded in this thankless task despite the Israeli skipper's hand in both goals. Last Sunday his brilliant ball control shone like a beacon in the Australian defence as he worked his way out of trouble to hold possession and turn grim defence into attack in a few elegant strides.

JIM ROONEY worked like a Trojan in both games, but for little return in Sydney whereas he shone brightly at Lang Park. Rooney had a field day in Brisbane where he was always first on the ball to launch attack after attack — and lay on the first goal. In Sydney, he was forced to accomplish obscure defensive chores which wore him out as the game progressed.

RAY BAARTZ enjoyed midfield mastery in Brisbane, but that odd Sportsground hoodoo still held last Sunday. For some unaccountable reason it's been more than two years now that the Hakoah star hasn't lived up to his reputation on Sydney's premier ground. His understanding with Rooney was one of the reasons for Australia's great match in Queensland, but

we saw little of the real Baartz in the second match of the series.

BILLY VOJTEK was like night and day and his performances couldn't have been more different. The dazzling Croatia-Melbourne striker paralysed the Israeli defence in Brisbane and was the best player on the field. This was his best-ever international display as everything he tried came off in Sydney he was nowhere near that form. Actually, he was never in the match at any stage, and hardly touched the ball in the second half when it became obvious he couldn't repeat his Brisbane brilliance.

MAX TOLSON'S first two full international appearances were surrounded in controversy. One is either for or against Tolson, who certainly leaves no one indifferent. In my book, he gave a first-class performance in Brisbane and was our best forward in Sydney. Strong and persistent — unduly rough, some will claim — he was such a handful in both matches that he tied up several Israeli defenders. In Sydney it took three men to shackle him. Tolson may not be a connoisseur's delight, but in today's international soccer a "battering ram" type of striker can be just as useful as a clever ball player.

ALAN AINSLIE disappointed although his golden left boot gave Australia its 1-0 win. He has scored enough goals with that type of dipping shot to dismiss the sensational goal as a fluke. Unfortunately, we didn't see too much in 180 minutes from the St. George player. In Brisbane he only came to life for a spell in the second half with some remarkable crosses, but blotted an already indifferent display by missing some absolute "sitters". In the Sydney match, apart from his fantastic goal, we saw even less from this otherwise talented player.

ISRAEL

It was easy to see why ISZHAK SHUM was rated the best Israeli in the Mexican World Cup series. He was the most outstanding visitor in the two appearances to date, and in my book tied with Mackay as the player of the match in Sydney.

Shpigler better look out for his laurels. Shum is coming, if, in fact, he hasn't arrived already.

MORDECHAI SHPIGLER again impressed as a cool customer, definitely in world class, and a great gentleman and sportsman into the bargain. Although not in the best condition, he remains the perfect opportunist, playmaker and is still as lethal as ever on dead balls.

Fierce defenders MENACHEM BELLO and YESHAYUE SCHWAGER, injured after 38 minutes in Sydney, had good games though the former was lucky not to be sent off in Brisbane for crude fouls on Vojtek.

Last, but not least, the immensely talented goalie ISZHAK VISOKER, who seems to reserve some of his best 'keeping for us. Already sensational in the World Cup and in Tel-Aviv last year, Visoker, in the final reckoning, was Israel's most valuable player so far as he clearly saved them from defeat in Brisbane, and in Sydney prevented at least one goal.

— LOU GAUTIER

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English publication requires urgently color action shot transparencies of Sydney and Melbourne First Division matches. Also of internationals if available.

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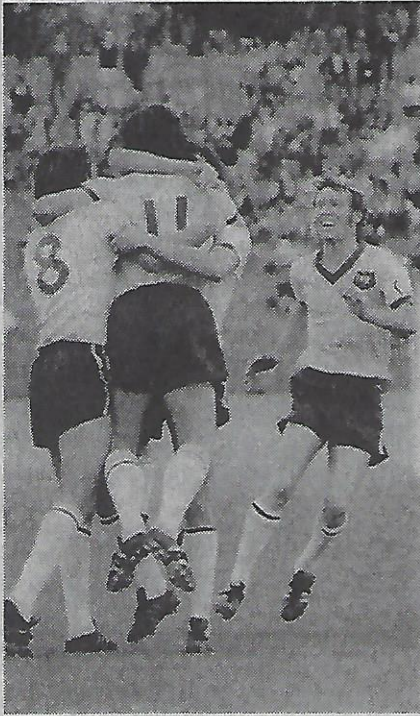
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Four-week course starting on Tuesday, November 23, at Outer Wentworth Park.

KISSING TIME



Alan Ainslie (No. 11) being embraced by deliriously happy Australian team-mates after scoring his fantastic 12th minute goal. Other identifiable Aussies in Tim Pockley's photograph are Ray Baartz (8) and Jim Mackay, who is racing to join in the celebrations.

AFTER-MATCH COMMENTS

Here are some after-match comments from last Sunday's Australia v. Israel international at the Sydney Sportsground:

DETIMAR CRAMER, FIFA coach now in Australia: "Australia won, and that's what counts. At your stage of soccer development it's the results that matter. Crowd-pleasing soccer will come later. Your team is too young and inexperienced to play two good matches in a row. In Brisbane they excelled. In Sydney, in nervous Cup-tie atmosphere, their lack of international match-play told, but they still won. So why be greedy and complain?"

JOSEPH DAGAN, Israel's team-manager: "We are improving slowly, but surely. That's football, though, for you. Outplayed and unfit in Brisbane, we manage to draw. Playing the better football, we lose in Sydney!"

EDMOND SHMILOVICH, coach of Israel: "The referee picked continually on our players in the first 10 minutes. Without this intimidation we would have won as we played the better football. Even without Shpigler we can still win in Melbourne."

Australian coach ZVONIMIR RASIC: "We had to win, and win we did. The boys can play better, as they showed in Brisbane, but the Israelis improved tremendously and we were up against world-class opposition. Just look at their World Cup results, and tell me Israel is not in world class!"

BOBBY COLLINS, ex-Leeds United and Scottish great, now coach of Hakoah: "Not a great spectacle, but a true competitive international match. Israel were more skilled but Australia appears better suited for today's type of football."

Referee TONY BOSKOVIC: "The dirtiest first 10 minutes of any match I've ever refereed. The teams were obviously carrying over the feud from where they left off in the last 10 minutes in Brisbane. If I hadn't worked overtime with my whistle in the opening minutes to assert my authority, the match would have degenerated into open warfare."

AUSTRALIA v. ISRAEL 1-0

Plenty of guts but finesse was missing

— By PAUL DEAN —

A few minutes after the start of the match last Sunday, Napoleon's famous quip to his pleading soldiers, dying in the snow of Russia, came into mind: "You bastards, do you want to live for ever?"

One wondered if all 22 players on the field will come through the ordeal with their limbs intact; if diplomatic relations between Australia and Israel would survive the unbearable strain.

Some of the more hair-raising moments would have done justice to a conflict over the Suez Canal, where it's traditionally impossible to define who is the aggressor and who is the victim.

I guess it would seem unduly pedantic to complain about the lack of spectacle: after all, Australia won and, they say, this is what football is all about.

Had this been a World Cup elimination match where victory counts above anything else, this view could be justified.

But in a game where we are supposed to take stock of our prowess and resources, slightly different yardsticks must be applied.

"PHYSICAL"

The disturbing feature of Sunday's match was that, once again, Australia sank back to the good old days of guts-and-blood type of football.

We all know that "physical football" is here to stay; that apart from the divinely gifted Brazilians, no other team in the world dares to take the field without gritting their teeth in real or mock anger.

We also realise that Australia's forte has been and will be the more athletic qualities: toughness, speed, stamina, etc.

But surely, after six years of international contact, we would have the right to expect a bit more than that.

Alas, the Sydney public saw precious little of that "bit more."

FEUDS

With the exception of a few fleeting moments, Australia's display was no more than "gussy."

Oh sure, they were dead keen to win and were clearly prepared to risk life and limb on the altar of this sacred goal — but in the process they overlooked the basic need to play constructive football.

A rich measure of personal and collective feuds provided the background to this tense, nervous and bad-tempered encounter.

Actually, the first 10 minutes were little better than a street fight.

Tolson, clearly having been instructed to upset and torment the Israel defence, did just that, using his considerable strength, plus elbows, in the early exchanges.

Rosen, Schwager, Kalderon and Bello quickly took up the challenge, and from then on the war was on.

Referee Tony Boskovic had to have eyes like Marty Feldman to focus on the ball as well as the constant sidekicks and ankle taps; his whistle shrieked incessantly either to tame the bullocking Tolson, or the infuriated and retaliating Israelis.

These conditions were simply not conducive to good football and, of course, we saw little of it.

HELLBENT

Australia were hellbent on winning, regardless of the price or consequences — and this, in itself, should be a praiseworthy motive.

But football skill was relegated to secondary importance — and thus, even in a tense international, is unforgivable.

During the whole 90 minutes Australia launched only three or four well-conceived, modern attacking moves.

Israel, once they calmed down a bit, were more constructive in the midfield. The commanding figure of Shum and the elusive, elegant and cool Shpigler managed to mount more combative attacks, especially on the right wing, where Shaarabani proved too much for an ebullient, but shaky Alston.

Apart from Ainslie's superb goal in the 12th minute, a fierce, dipping shot, Australia had only one real chance in the first half, in the 41st minute when Baartz finished a good move with a weak shot.

However, with a little luck Israel could have had two goals by then: in the 35th minute Faigenbaum, four minutes later Shpigler shot wide in good scoring positions.

Eleven minutes into the second half only Wilson's sangfroid saved Australia when he threw himself into Shum's close shot, with Romanowicz well beaten.

To start with, there was an element of luck involved; Israel had more real chances than we did and without Ainslie's great goal, the match would have certainly ended in a stalemate.

The Sydney match also revealed that this new Australian team must either improve or undergo structural changes to be a World Cup "certainty".

Israel disappointed in two regards; they allowed themselves to be provoked to the border of nervous breakdown and they can't shoot.

Had all the Israelis kept their cool, as did Shpigler, Shum and a few others, it's likely that they would have drawn this match.

They had enough chances to convert at least one or two into goals, but their shooting power was pathetic.

Whether this Australian team really has more potential than last year's, as claimed by many after the Brisbane match, has yet to be confirmed.

I would tend to believe that the team's elan and gutsiness wouldn't suffer if we had one or two more ballplayers instead of courageous athletes.

REFEREE

Referee Boskovic had an unenviable task to keep the game under reasonable control.

The "home town refereeing" charge against him, raised by the Israelis, was most unfair. Actually, he would have been justified to award Australia a penalty at the end when Tolson was unceremoniously upended.

That he had to stop the game so often for fouls behind the ball wasn't of his own making; indeed, it speaks highly for his eagle eyes that he spotted those vicious little fouls which most spectators had missed.

Australia: Romanowicz, Harris, Wilson, Micic, Alston, Rooney, Mackay, Baartz, Vojtek, Tolson, Ainslie.

Israel: Visoker, Bar, Bello, Shum, Rosen, Schwager (Rozendorn 38 min.), Kalderon, Shpigler, Shaarabani, Faigenbaum, Borba (Ninio, halftime).

Scorer: Ainslie, 12 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 13,500.

Between the 20th and 23rd minutes Australia had three great moments, but the chances were not taken.

Baartz's freekick, aimed at the upper far corner, was somehow saved by the brilliant Visoker and Tolson's header went just wide.

Then it was again Israel's turn. In the 76th minute Faigenbaum failed to connect with a low cross two metres from the goal and five minutes later Shpigler's header came back from the crossbar.

The last few minutes were again Australia's. In the 87th minute Ainslie broke through but shot prematurely and wide.

One minute from full-time Tolson was brought down inside the box but referee Boskovic, bending over backwards, refused to give a penalty.



PETER WILSON

Those who judge a match simply and purely by the result must have been pleased: Australia won.

After all, it's vitally important for us to learn and practise beating Israel with whom we are destined to come to grips again in the World Cup.

But the way this victory was achieved could not have pleased either coach Rasic, the players, or the spectators.

To start with, there was an element of luck involved; Israel had more real chances than we did and without Ainslie's great goal, the match would have certainly ended in a stalemate.

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REFEREE

Referee Boskovic had an unenviable task to keep the game under reasonable control.

The "home town refereeing" charge against him, raised by the Israelis, was most unfair. Actually, he would have been justified to award Australia a penalty at the end when Tolson was unceremoniously upended.

That he had to stop the game so often for fouls behind the ball wasn't of his own making; indeed, it speaks highly for his eagle eyes that he spotted those vicious little fouls which most spectators had missed.

Australia: Romanowicz, Harris, Wilson, Micic, Alston, Rooney, Mackay, Baartz, Vojtek, Tolson, Ainslie.

Israel: Visoker, Bar, Bello, Shum, Rosen, Schwager (Rozendorn 38 min.), Kalderon, Shpigler, Shaarabani, Faigenbaum, Borba (Ninio, halftime).

Scorer: Ainslie, 12 min.

Referee: A. Boskovic.

Crowd: 13,500.



The happy relieved expression on the face of Adrian Alston tells the story as goalie Roger Romanowicz (22) tips Izshak Shum's powerful header over the bar.

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Referee ruled out

Dutch referee van Ravens may be suspended for one year — for not knowing the rules of the European Cup. Ravens ordered penalty-kicks to be taken after Sporting Lisbon beat Rangers (Glasgow) 4-3 in the return leg of the Champions' Cup match in Lisbon a fortnight ago. There was no need for penalty kicks to determine the winner because Rangers won 3-2 at home, and away goals count double.

Another player gets "life"

A third West German player has been suspended for life for his part in the bribery scandal of five months ago. He is Hans Arnold, of VfB Stuttgart, who has admitted accepting a bribe from an Arminia Bielefeld player to lose on May 29. Manfred Manglitz and Jurgen Neuman are the other "lifers". Arnold has also been ordered to pay a fine of \$4,000 which will be donated to charity.

England's top centre-forwards

According to a readers' poll in the London "Daily Express", Tommy Lawton is England's greatest-ever centre-forward. Lawton (1936-1955) polled 28% of the votes. Next came Dixie Dean (1923-38) with 25%, Tommy Taylor (1951-58) 11%, Martin Chivers 10%, Nat Lofthouse (1946-1960) 6%, George Camsell (1923-1939) 4%, Ted Drake (1932-45) 3%, Stan Mortensen (1939-58) 2% and Bobby Smith (1952-65) 2%.

UEFA gets tough

Besides ordering the replay of the Moenchengladbach v. Inter Milan match, the UEFA also handed out several other sanctions. Panionios, of Greece, were disqualified from the UEFA Cup and their players Moraitis, Philipoulos and Artaniasos suspended for three, two and one years respectively. France's Olympique Marseille had its ground banned for one European Cup match while St. Etienne (France), Real Madrid, Atletico Madrid, and Shelbourne (Eire) were all fined between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for crowd misbehavior at European Cup matches. Corso, the Inter Milan forward, has been barred from European competition until 1973 for manhandling the referee.

Intercontinental circus goes on

Negotiations between Ajax Amsterdam and Nacional Montevideo have resumed for staging the Intercontinental Cup final after all. Ajax have suggested both ties be played in London and the Uruguayans are reported to be willing to play one leg in Paris and one in Madrid. FIFA, however, are against both recommendations and want the series to be played on the traditional home-and-away basis, or not at all. And there the vexed matter rests for the moment.

Top amateurs fined

Skelmersdale United, the holders of the FA Amateur Cup, were recently fined \$3,200 for gross mismanagement involving payments to players contrary to the rules of the FA. Bill Gregson, the club chairman, has been indefinitely suspended. W. S. Giller, a director, has been ousted till August 1972, while six other directors have been censured. Steve Heighway, the Liverpool centre-forward, was with Skelmersdale prior to going to the Kop while Andy Windsor, who had a spell with South Sydney, was also with the side before coming to Australia.

Dinamo Zagreb's famous coach, Cajkovsky, has resigned. He was replaced by Jerkovic, the leading goalscorer of the 1962 World Cup in Chile. Cajkovsky, who had great coaching success in West Germany, never hit it off in Yugoslavia since returning 18 months ago.

● Pele's book, "I am Pele," has been translated into Esperanto under the title: "Miestas Pele". So far the book has sold 190,000 copies in Brazil.

● Hennes Kuipers, the 33-year-old West German international who was playing in Austria, has signed a two-year contract with the Swiss FC Lugano.

● Rosenberg (Trondheim) has won the Norwegian championship.

● Hamburg's enlarged Volksparkstadion now has a capacity of 90,938 spectators, including 29,000 under cover. The new-look ground, a venue for the next World Cup, was inaugurated this week for West Germany v. Poland.

● The hot tip is that Hungarian Zoltan Varga will leave Hertha Berlin next season. According to his contract with the German club, Varga is to receive sixty percent of his transfer fee if he joins a non-German club.

● Venezuela is to introduce a quota system for foreign players. Last season 90 of their 160 professionals were born abroad.

● Laszlo Branikovic, Ferencvaros' brilliant young prospect, was found guilty of killing a cyclist in a car accident. Branikovic received an 18 months' suspended sentence and was placed on a five-year good behavior bond.

● Sir Stanley Rous was in Lima for last month's FIFA Referees' Committee Meeting where all World Cup qualifying group referees were appointed.

● Atletico Madrid's French coach, former international goalkeeper Marcel Domingo, has resigned. His place will be taken by Max Merkel, who left Sevilla when the Greek Dan Georgiadis took over.

● In Santiago, Chile caused a sensation by thrashing Uruguay, fourth in the 1970 World Cup, 5-0.

● The Northern Irish FA is still seeking a neutral venue for its European Nations' Cup match against Spain.

● Strikes are spreading like wildfire in Latin America. After Chile, Mexico, and Uruguay, the Argentinians have also laid down their "tools". The championship rounds of November 8, in all Divisions, were postponed because of a general players' strike.

● When England played Switzerland in Berne last month, Sir Alf Ramsey presented the Swiss FA with eight clumps of Wembley turf for their newly opened soccer museum at Basel.

● Industrialist Mario Sacchi is the new president of Napoli.

● Botafogo and Paulo Cesar, their star Brazilian international striker, are still at loggerheads. The club last week decided to place the World Cup player, aged 22, on transfer — for \$300,000.

● A combined Franco-Italian women's team has completed a tour of Asia with matches in Indonesia, Japan and Iran.

● Facchetti has played in 300 championship matches and has scored 49 goals. When number 50 comes up, his club, Inter Milan, will present him with a golden boot worth \$5,000.

● Another Rumanian international may soon play in France — Dobrin, whose name is linked with that of AS Monaco, Prince Rainier's club. Two other star Rumanians, Piriclab and Voinea, are amongst the best players of Nimes.

● The Soviet Union's Olympic team thrashed the French amateurs 5-1 in a qualifying match in the Armenian capital of Erevan. The Soviets, who missed out on Mexico and Tokyo, are among the favorites for the 1972 Olympic title.

● Despite Spain's elimination from the European Nations' Cup by the USSR, national team coach Ladislav Kubala's contract has been extended till June 1974.

● Norway has again changed its national coach. Johansen is out and in comes Englishman George Curtis, former boss of champion club side Rosenborg.

● Bertini, Inter Milan's halfback, is serving a three-match European Cup suspension imposed by the UEFA for being sent off against AEK-Athens in the first round of the Champions' Cup.

● Pilguy, the goalkeeper who replaced Lev Yashin at Dynamo Moscow, is the custodian of the USSR's Olympic team. Pilguy didn't create much of an impression in Sydney this year where he conceded five goals in two matches.

● The Greek FA also took drastic action of its own against Panionios, for their unruly behavior in Budapest. Panionios players will not be allowed to play for Greece till 1973 and the club can't play abroad for 14 months.

● The draws for the quarterfinals of the European Champions' and Cup-Winners' Cups will only be made on January 12.



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Stars of Malaysia

Outstanding in the current Malaysian team, a shock Olympic qualifier at the expense of South Korea and Japan, are striker Syed Ahmad, who scored all goals against Japan and South Korea in Seoul recently, and goalie Wom Kam Fook, who conceded only one goal. The Malaysian team is coached by Dave McLaren, the former Dundee goalkeeper.

British "oldies" beat Kuwait

Lou Brodie, the ex-South Melbourne-Hellas coach who took over as Kuwait's national team boss on October 1 to prepare them for their World Cup sortie, appears to have taken on a big assignment. Recently, a British veterans' international XI beat Kuwait's national side 4-3 in front of 10,000 spectators in Kuwait. Included in the UK team were Danny Blanchflower, Jimmy Hill, Johnny Haynes and Jimmy Greaves, with the mercurial Greaves scoring all four goals.

Pools boost Rangers

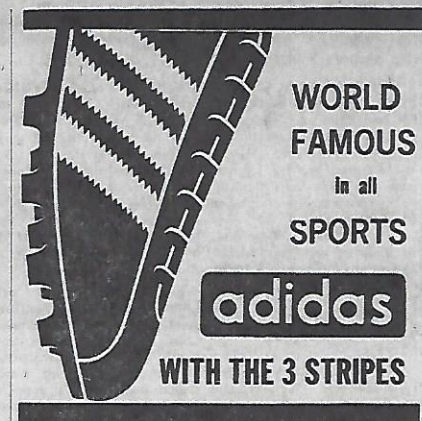
By the end of this decade the most stupendous football ground in Britain will be Ibrox Stadium. It'll be the biggest. It'll be the best. It'll be the most comfortable. It'll be entirely covered. With seating for everyone. And heating all round the ground. It'll have bars and restaurants and club-rooms for members. With ample parking space for all who wish to travel by car. And who will pay for all this? The answer is — Rangers will. Out of the income from their bob-a-week pools. For the staggering fact is the Ibrox club will take a sum in excess of TWO MILLION POUNDS as their clear profit from the pools in the next ten years. It will be the biggest take by any football club anywhere in the world.

South American Olympians

Ten South American countries will fight it out in Colombia, starting on November 26, for South America's two Olympic berths. Group I, at Cali and Medellin, includes Brazil, Ecuador, Chile, Argentina and Bolivia. Teams in the other group are Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Uruguay and Paraguay. Colombia and Argentina are tipped to reach Munich.

European finals at Wembley

Provided England qualifies for the semifinals, it is almost certain that the final stages (semifinals, final and third place-off) of the European Nations' Cup will be played at Wembley in June 1972.



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His presence in soccer has pleased, puzzled or peeved people, according to their taste.

We have been among his critics; not on a personal basis but through some of the ASF policies, or rather, the lack of them.

Arthur T. George, successful city lawyer, businessman and man about town, is today president of the ASF.

His re-election on November 19 is assured; there won't be any opponents. So this interview with him cannot be construed as electioneering for or against him.

To find out about his plans, hopes and ideas on soccer, we recorded this interview with Arthur T. George.

The words are his, unedited, and without the trailer of any comment from us.

We feel that in the past we commented enough; this time we gave him the floor.

● We have heard that you intend to reduce your business involvements and devote more time to soccer soon. Is this correct?

This is partly true. I've been used to activity all my life. I had a very humble beginning of migrant stock. I had a great struggle to pass my exams to become a solicitor through the economic circumstances in which my family was. I gradually became involved in business and my business interests became bigger every year and today they encompass a very wide range of commercial activities in the community.

● What was your family's background?

My parents were poor Greek migrants who ran a small cafe here. I helped in the shop to get through high school and later also worked to get through law school. I couldn't afford to go to university and I did a course at night, the Solicitors' Admission Board.

● You are a relative latecomer to soccer who didn't actually spend a lifetime in the game. What attracted you to it?

I came to soccer through Pan Hellenic and I became interested for a number of reasons. I'll be 57 next year and I have already reduced my activities in my legal practice where I physically separated myself from the practice and became a consultant. I plan a gradual reduction of my other activities. I have been concentrating not only on soccer but on the university where I'm a chairman of a committee and also some charitable organisations.

I look forward to the day when I can spend even more time with these activities. I became interested in soccer because I saw it as a challenge. For one thing, it's a good way to get the migrants on common ground with the Australians.

Secondly, I think it fits in well with our national aspirations. All our neighbors in Asia have one sport in common with us, played by the masses, and this is soccer. Thirdly, it's an international sport and I really think Australia can do just as well in soccer as they do in other sports.

INCREASED POOLS INCOME

● We have criticised the ASF many times, regardless of who was in office, that it was a very poorly constructed organisation. You are on the boards of many companies and have a wide experience how a modern corporation should be built up. Do you agree that the ASF is a very inefficiently built body?

I would say that it WAS an organisation that had many deficiencies but gradually these are being remedied. First of all, financially. We have increased the income of the ASF not only in negotiations with the Pools Promoters' Association but also in finding 15 or 20 small people in England who have been using our pools and have now generated an extra income of \$20,000 a year.

Secondly, we have begun an examination of the problems of the ASF. Take the question of tours. For years, tour income was considered the beginning and end of ASF revenue, apart from the Pools income.

People have been saying, including the mass media, that either the teams that have been coming out here weren't good enough or didn't bring their star players or the promotion wasn't good.

I carried out an analysis in depth on this matter. I'm satisfied the real reason why the tour income has gone down is that there is a great mass of Australians, including myself, who want to see Australia play where our prestige as a nation is involved. Where there is competitive element, not just a series of exhibition matches, which have now begun to lose their lustre.

● Do you realise that the ASF is possibly the only national football organisation in the world which doesn't directly control one single player or one competition? In fact, it seems to be little more than a clearing house for vested State interests. Do you agree?

I think this is a very true criticism and a direct result of soccer following in the footsteps of the original Federation process in Australia, where the States federated and the Commonwealth had little power.

You had this problem of centralism and federalism. It seems to me inevitable and necessary that if soccer is to progress in Australia there has to be a viable competition affiliated with and responsible to the ASF.

Not only for the reasons that you stated but for an even more valid one. I don't think we have sufficient number of soccer players and followers in Australia to spread them in some 100 First Division teams from Cairns to Perth. Our players suffer from this undue dilution. We have got to concentrate these players in a smaller number of teams. Let's come out in the open and call it a National League.

But you can call it what you like. There are obvious problems with a National League. For example, who would be in and who'd be left out.

● Do you see the day when the ASF centrally runs soccer in Australia, and the State Federations are ASF branches with co-ordinated schedules and interests?

ASF chief promises peaceful changes in policy

— By PAUL DEAN —

This may be a revolutionary concept in this country — but this is exactly how every nation's soccer operates.

You may be right theoretically in what you suggest but this may be a very long process. I think the first thing we have to achieve with the ASF is to get a competition attached to it which would, in turn, project a national image.

If we succeed in doing this it would create a degree of authority and respect and other matters may follow. But I feel the point you raised would be going too fast. The impatience of some of our soccer administrators in preferring revolution to evolution has caused some of the deepest dissent among officials and I think this is very bad for the game.

● The ASF has often been described as nothing much more than a tour agency. If this is not true, what other tangible work has the ASF done?

As it is presently constituted, the ASF would be doing a good job for Australian soccer if first of all it continued to improve the image of the national team. This indirectly improves the image of soccer, throughout the country. Secondly, the question whether it is or is not a tour agency, revolves again around the question of money.

This has been our only means of getting money. I relate back to my earlier answer that if we can get a good competition in this country on a yearly basis as some of the tournaments are run in Asia and Europe, we won't have this question of organising tours on a year to year basis.

It is also the policy of the ASF to raise the standard of soccer throughout the country and to increase the prospect of young talent being recognised.

Now, finally, the ASF is doing something about this. I've been negotiating this matter for many months and the Rothman Sports Foundation has now agreed to provide a director of coaching to the ASF.

The object is to get down right to the school level to see that in primary schools, high schools, GPS schools and even farm plantations we gradually build a system of regional coaches so that we are able to take young Australian talent and build them up.

● The general practice in the established soccer countries is that the national associations rely on the services of a professional and accredited tour promoter. Why has the ASF always rejected the idea of employing these people as four agents, relying instead on our hit-and-miss methods?

I don't know the answer to this. But it's one of the things I will investigate when I go to Europe again next year. But first things first. When I joined the ASF this was the policy, laid down unanimously. Every time it raises its head the ASF delegates take this view. Next year when I spend some time in Europe on business and a bit of a holiday I propose to visit a lot of the major national organisations and this is one of the matters I intend to discuss with them.

I intend to put the facts together in this matter, find out who are the right people, what do they earn, what are the contract arrangements and how do they usually operate. On examination of these facts, if it's shown that this is the right thing to do, I would have no hesitation leading a move to change the existing policy.

ASIA AND OCEANIA

● For some time, SOCCER WORLD has been standing alone, trying to kill the Oceania myth. Recently we were pleased to see that you yourself have reached the same conclusion about Oceania. What do you think its future is?

In the present form its future is nil. Again, this is one of the situations I found when I got there but later investigated it in depth. It is a myth, you're right.

After the AGM I will initiate certain investigations on this subject. We are already in touch with FIFA about all this. Let us not just cling to things because they were accepted three or four years ago.

The main reason why you join a confederation is to get competitive football and to get into the last 16 of the World Cup by winning the competition of your confederation. In your lifetime and mine, you won't get into the last 16 because you beat Fiji and New Zealand. And New Hebrides, Tahiti and New Caledonia can't play in the World Cup.

We have an acting president doing his best under difficult circumstances in Tasmania, we were forced to accept a secretary from New Zealand, we have a treasurer in Fiji. Papua-New Guinea hasn't got any funds, Fiji hasn't got any either — what future is there for soccer in that sort of atmosphere?

● Now, on to Asia. I feel that our relations with them in the past have been a largely one-way love affair. We expect that the Asians should welcome our teams. On the other hand, we have not invited any Asian team apart from Japan in 1968. Do you feel that if a new rapport takes place between Australia and the Asian Confederation, we will adopt a more workable basis for co-operation?

Well, this comes back to what I said earlier about exhibition tours and our preoccupation with this Oceania myth. Once we shed ourselves of these two sickly con-

cepts, we have the door open for a regular competition in Australia, like the Merdeka and others, with the participation of Asian teams for a worthwhile trophy, where the reputation and image of the Australian team is at stake and where these Asian people would feel that we are really part of them.

This goes further than soccer; this is also our national interest. There is always the question whether the public will support these tournaments but I have great confidence that they will, once there is a competitive element involved. They have proved this over the years.

WORLD CUP PLANS

● Our national team policy has been little more than a catch-phrase. Do you think the ASF will ever work out a long-range plan and stick to it?

I think all State Federations would welcome a long-term policy. I am hoping to fix a program early next year which will take us into at least 1974 and where the States will be able to fix their programs and commitments to fit in with this and where this conflict between the ASF policy and State interests will disappear. This is not easy but essential to promote the national image.

● The ASF is now trying to persuade FIFA to change the World Cup groupings, to cut the group of eight into two of four. In view of this, do you feel in retrospect that we should have sent a delegate to the Dusseldorf World Cup draw instead of arguing the point now?

I am not being stubborn but I think our decision was the right one. First of all, you couldn't have sent a delegate, as he wouldn't have been accepted. We could have sent an observer who would have been a lobbyist. But he would have been the only one there.

I checked since who attended and everybody present was either on the committee or on some co-ordinating committee. The plain fact is that once again we must come back to the myth of Oceania. We haven't got the status in FIFA that Asia has, for example. Asia has a voice, we haven't.

We are trying to do three things at present. Since we heard that Ceylon was out, we have been trying to eliminate the Australia versus New Zealand play-off. And we have succeeded in this. This may save us about \$10,000.

The second thing we put up is that we want a split into two groups of four and again we are not just writing to FIFA, we have been in touch with Indonesia and I personally have arranged some diplomatic interviews which will be carried out in the next few weeks in this matter.

Our third objective is that if we do have a tournament for eight, at least it's held in the most favorable place for us.

I noticed in SOCCER WORLD recently that you couldn't understand our reluctance to play in Iran. Perhaps I ought to explain why Indonesia would be preferable. I think Iran at present is preoccupied with an expensive and very large program to improve their image in the world.

The recent celebrations have been evidence of this and I think the Government of Iran would do everything possible to try to win this particular competition. Now, I am not suggesting anything unfair but you realise the last time we played there there was a fairly well organised crowd reaction. We also feel that Iran has some health problems for our people and this is based on Dr. Corrigan's opinion.

Then there is also the lack of training facilities in Teheran for the number of teams involved. Having achieved the elimination of this Australia-New Zealand problem through the withdrawal of Ceylon, our next objective is to get two groups of four and our third is trying to get the competition held in Indonesia.

● If you succeed in splitting the group into two of four countries, is there any reason why Australia should not apply to hold one tournament here?

None at all and we have already applied. We wrote to the Asian Confederation within a fortnight of the announcement of the draw. We have also told this to Dr. Kaser of FIFA and informed the other members of the World Cup Organising Committee on an individual basis. In this we have stated that we would be happy to stage a tournament for four in Australia.

● At the beginning you mentioned your interest with dozens of companies worth about \$60 million. It's also been said that you are very rich, in fact a millionaire. Have you ever thought of living up to the image of your predecessor, Meeenas and establish some foundation or grant in soccer, perhaps scholarships, to perpetuate your connection with the game?

I have had my share of wealth and I don't deny, though I never assert either, that I'm a millionaire. Soccer is already costing me a lot of money. I'm the first president whose overseas trips cost the ASF nothing. When I feel some security in this position as president and feel to have the confidence of the soccer world, it's my intention to initiate some moves which will create funds for soccer. When I do, and I hope to assume leadership in this, it would naturally follow that I set an example...

SYDNEY CLUB PATROL

Gross receipts at the Australia v. Israel match in Brisbane totalled \$4,600, and in Sydney last Sunday about \$14,000. Even if the Melbourne game grosses \$12,000 as hopefully expected, the ASF will fall well short of the \$40,000 needed to recover costs — and this despite Israel's tremendous gesture of foregoing match fees and agreeing to be paid only airfares, accommodation and pocket money.

Soccer suffered a great loss with the sudden death last week of JOE CAJKA, the Marconi treasurer. Aged 40, Joe Cajka died of cancer at Bankstown Hospital after it was first thought he only needed an appendectomy. Before joining Marconi in 1966, Joe was an Executive member of the Southern Districts Association and of the NSW Juniors. "Soccer World" extends its sympathy to Joe's bereaved family.

The Australian Federation has KNOCKED BACK a Melbourne promoter's plan for a tournament in Melbourne next season between NSW, Victoria, and two foreign club sides.

MICK JONES, the NSW under-21 coach, has left Melita Eagles to join Manly in 1972.

Marconi's TOP EXECUTIVES for 1972 are: Carlo Zaccariotto, president; Frank Labbozzetta, L. Doria, vice-presidents; M. De Havilland, treasurer in place of the regretted late Joe Cajka.

The All Nations' OVER-32 Northern Districts sponsored competition will be played at Englefield Stadium, Dural, this week end with players such as Les Scheinling, Herbert Ninas and Jack Sedgwick (ex-Granville). Play starts at noon on Saturday and at 10 a.m. on Sunday. Teams competing are Poland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Israel, Austria, Australia, England, Scotland and Hungary.

IAN CUTHBERT, now in hospital for a cartilage operation, has been placed on transfer by South Coast for \$1,000 — an absolute bargain for any club as he is one of Sydney's best, if under-rated, defenders.

Israeli skipper MORDECHAI SHPIGLER created a tremendous impression when he was interviewed on Channel 9's Saturday morning sports show last week. Shpi-

ler adroitly parried several controversial questions by the all-rugby league panel of Mike Gibson, Geoff Prenter and Frank Hyde so well that all agreed he was one of the show's best-ever interviewees.

The ABC's "MATCH OF THE DAY" will start again in the last week of December. It will be shown at about 10.15 p.m. Mondays. Channel 9, however, have stopped showing "Star Soccer" because they didn't agree to the conditions of purchase for the films which stipulated they can't be shown on Sunday afternoons so not to clash with local games.

ARTHUR T. GEORGE will be re-elected unopposed as president at the ASF's Annual General Meeting in Melbourne on Saturday. Five have nominated for the two vice-presidential posts: Alderman Ian Brusasco (Queensland), Cr. Julius Re (WA), T. Marmaras (Victoria), P. Nikolich (SA) and Vic Tutting (Tasmania).

In conjunction with Melita Eagles, the Eastern Eagles Soccer Club, will run a SUMMER COACHING SCHOOL at Queens Park, Darley Road, Randwick, from November 19 until December 17 every Friday from 5.30 till 8 p.m. Interested boys aged 13 to 18 are cordially invited. Ring Drew Robertson at 328-7792 for further details.

South Coast have granted FREE CLEARANCES to goalie George Ramage and halfback Phil Carr.

JIM MACKAY, Australia's best player against Israel last Sunday, will be 28 years old today (Friday, November 19). Jim, who had a spell as a professional with Airdrie in his native Scotland, has been with Croatia-Melbourne since 1965.

South Coast have secured a new midfield player from England. He is TERRY HURLEY, whose last club was the amateur Wimbledon, but who had professional experience with Leyton Orient.

The PARKIEA COACHING ACADEMY will have a 60 feet-long swimming pool for its summer coaching courses. The pool site has been excavated and the entire job is scheduled for completion by the first week in December. Young players will be given a couple of hours for swimming and relaxation during the heat of the day. Camp No. 1 will be held January 9-14 and No. 2 January 16-21. A \$30 fee is charged, which includes full board. Enquiries for remaining places can be made to Cec Campbell (Tel. 524-2116) or Charles Valentine (40-3196).

Mordechai Shpipler left for England after Wednesday's match against Hakoah. The Israeli skipper will appear in a "World XI" (a euphemism now too loosely used) in London on November 23 against West Ham United in a testimonial match for England.

CUP TO CROATIA

Despite the absence of Australian internationals Jim Mackay and Billy Vojtek, Croatia last Sunday beat SM-Hellas (minus Marshall) 3-2 in the final of the Victorian "Top Four" series.

Armstrong opened the scoring for Hellas from a 43rd minute penalty, but Croatia equalised in the 53rd minute through Kuzilek, and minutes later went ahead with a 20-metre goal by Ivanovic.

Hellas drew level 10 minutes from the end when young Cassidy scored directly from a corner, but four minutes later Adlam notched the winning goal.

COUNTRY MUST BE ENCOURAGED

— By KEITH GILMOUR —
The amateur season in the NSW country this year saw some worthwhile improvements.

The standard of administration is certainly improving, and this must lead to further progress in the quality of football.

Wagga is a case in point, as their senior grades are showing out much better than previously.

Amongst the juniors, Orange and Blayney did particularly well.

In under-8 grade Orange gained a draw with Bankstown, and lost their series on goal average.

Orange was good enough to gain a win over Illawarra on the way through. Canberra was able to get an under-12 team in the last four of the prestige "Champion of Champions" competition.

It remains a misfortune of soccer that administra-

tion in the country remains divided. It is essential to the progress of the game and the Australian-trained player that there be a series between the country districts at senior level.

A championship could be conducted in Sydney over Easter for example, or games could be held between districts on the lines of the rugby league country titles.

The game cannot go ahead until there is a regular stream of developing players coming into the game from the country.

As it is, one half of the State is run by Newcastle and one half by Sydney, and so far as the country areas are concerned they are never encouraged to meet each other.

The Commercial Championship final will be fought out by the winners of this week's semifinals between Transfield and Vallaeta, and ANZ Bank and Azurri, which were played too late for publication in this issue.

The final will kick-off at about 3.30 p.m., and will be followed by another match — between the Spanish clubs of Sydney and Wollongong, said to contain several exceptionally talented players.

The Commercial Championship final will be fought out by the winners of this week's semifinals between Transfield and Vallaeta, and ANZ Bank and Azurri, which were played too late for publication in this issue.

Second Division Review PROVINCIALS HARD TO BEAT

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

The loss of several players from the previous year's side weakened Balgownie in 1971, yet the team slipped only one place back in comparison and maintained their traditional reputation for toughness.

Out of the team this season were Ron McGarry, Dennis Paterson, Graham Baker, Phil Worthington, and several others who were mostly replaced by inexperienced youngsters with the exception of player-coach Brian Edgely.

Although never a serious contender for promotion, Balgownie were a tough nut to crack, particularly at home where most of their big results were gained.

The same side that could be beaten by lowly North Sydney-Inter and drew twice with Artarmon, was able to score two of the most prestigious victories of the season.

On a mud-splattered Cricket Ground No. 2, Balgownie dashed Corinthians' hopes for promotion by beating them 2-1 at the height of their successful run.

Balgownie was the only side that convincingly beat promotion winners Sutherland in an unforgettable game that left the champions stunned and bewildered for weeks after.

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McGUCKIN'S FEAT

In that particular encounter, the unsung hero was Nigel McGuckin, who ripped through the Sutherland defence unchecked to score all four goals as the opposition watched in despair.

Yet, while they did so well against the stronger teams, including a 2-2 draw with Granville and two wins over Bankstown, Balgownie lost to Guildford and Inter, and also only drew once with Concordia.

McGuckin scored 13 goals to become the club's top scorer.

Coach Brian Edgely and outside-left Errol Freeman were sound performers and their contribution of seven goals apiece to the team's tally of 42 were good efforts.

Reasonable hopes could be pinned on the young newcomers who showed plenty of promising talent during the season.

These include 16-year-old left-back Richard Pic, who probably takes top marks for his performances, centre-forward Steve Royall and Ross Paterson.

There are several others in Balgownie's lower grade "nurseries" who seem certain to force their way into the first team next season.

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TWO MORE WEEKS

SOCCER WORLD continues publishing till December 3 when we go into our brief annual summer recess, to reappear on January 23, 1972.

In next week's issue a full report on Israel's last two matches in Australia, and text of Dettmar Cramer's address to the NSW clubs last week, together with all our regular features.

In our last issue for 1971 we will publish our awards for the year — always an eagerly awaited full page of kudos, which will include Victoria this year.



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